



U.S. Department of Justice

**Ronald C. Machen Jr.**  
*United States Attorney for the  
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center  
555 Fourth St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **For Information Contact:**

#### **Public Affairs**

(202) 252-6933

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/dc/news/2011/apr/news.html>

### **District Man Pleads Guilty to Multiple Burglaries** **- Defendant Stole Laptops from Businesses in Northwest Washington -**

WASHINGTON - Robert L. Brown, 48, of Washington, D.C., has pled guilty to charges stemming from a string of burglaries, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Brown appeared September 6, 2011 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and pled guilty to three counts of second-degree burglary and one count of attempted second-degree burglary. The Honorable Robert E. Morin scheduled sentencing for November 14, 2011. Under the court's voluntary sentencing guidelines, Brown faces between three and 15 years of incarceration for each of the burglary charges and up to three years for attempted burglary.

According to the government's evidence, Brown carried out a series of break-ins of businesses and non-profits in Northwest Washington.

On September 4, 2010, at approximately 8 a.m., Brown broke into the Brookings Institution's office building, in the 1700 block of Massachusetts Avenue NW, by using a tool to pry into the rear security door. He then walked through the building, looking into several offices with the intent to steal laptop computers. A security guard was summoned by a burglar alarm. When Brown heard the guard coming, he yelled, "I have a gun!" and ran away from the building.

On October 21, 2010, at about 10 p.m., Brown pried open the locked front door of the Smith Center for Healing and the Arts, in the 1600 block of U Street NW, with the intent to steal laptop computers. However, an alarm sounded, and Brown quickly left the scene.

On February 5, 2011, at approximately 9:20 a.m., Brown approached the rear door of The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, in the 2000 block of Massachusetts Avenue NW. Using a tool, he managed to open the door and enter the building. He ripped off the alarm panel and left moments later. Then, at about 9:45 a.m., he returned and searched through several offices, stealing four laptop computers and two digital cameras.

Finally, on April 15, 2011, at about 7 p.m., Brown pried open the exterior locked gate at a building in the 1200 block of 31<sup>st</sup> Street NW, walked across the courtyard, and pried open the locked front door of Union Realty. He then stole a laptop computer and left the premises.

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) was able to close approximately two dozen additional burglary investigations as part of this case.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the efforts of the MPD officers and investigators who worked on the case, including Detective Keith Tabron. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorney Trevor McFadden, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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